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BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
P.O. BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

MAIL

JUN 25 2002

**DIRECTOR OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**

In re Application of: :
Tadashi Yamaura :
Application No.:09/530,719 :
Filed: May 04, 2000 :
For: SOUND ENCODING METHOD AND :
SOUND DECODING METHOD AND :
SOUND ENCODING DEVICE AND SOUND :
DECODING DEVICE :

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL**

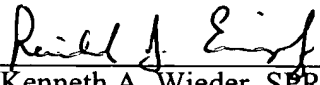
This is a decision on the petition filed June 06, 2002, to make the above-identified application special pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 708.02 (VIII).

A grantable petition to make special in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Item VIII, must be accompanied by (a) the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(I), (b) a statement that all claims are directed to a single invention or an offer to make an oral election without traverse should the Patent and Trademark Office hold that the claims are not directed to a single invention, (c) a statement that a pre-examination search has been made by the inventor, attorney, agent, professional searcher, etc., and a listing of the field of search by class and subclass, (d) one copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims, and (e) a detailed description of the submitted references and discussions pointing out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over these references.

The petition meets the above stated requirements and is **GRANTED**.

The application will retain its special status throughout its entire course of prosecution in the Patent and Trademark Office, including appeal, if any to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, subject only to diligent prosecution by the applicant.

The application file will be forwarded to the examiner for expedited prosecution.

for 
Kenneth A. Wieder, SPRE
Technology Center 2600
Communications
(703) 305-4710